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Ohio Dept.  
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Ontario  
Ministry of  
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Pennsylvania  
Fish and Boat  
Commission

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## Bighead & Silver Carp in the Lake Erie System 2016 Update

- ✓ *One positive eDNA detection for Bighead Carp in Ontario assessments (Thames R., near Chatham).*
- ✓ *No Bighead or Silver carp were observed in*
  - *targeted sampling,*
  - *agency core fish community assessments, or*
  - *commercial and recreational fisheries.*
- ✓ *Bighead carp have not been observed since 2000.*
- ✓ *Silver carp have never been observed in the system.*

### 2016 Targeted Sampling (2,709 sites)

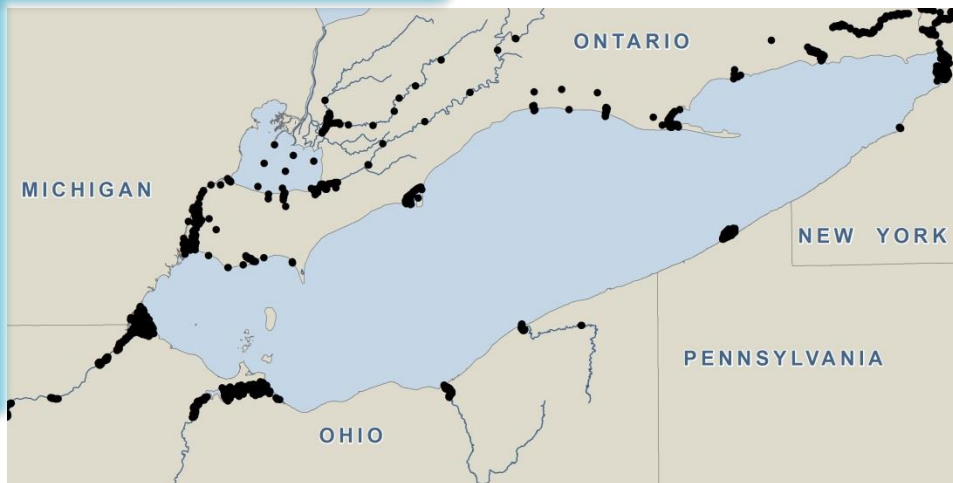
*No Big or Silver Carp collected from standard gears*

**eDNA results:**

*One '+' for Bighead Carp<sup>1</sup>*  
(1,520 sites, system-wide)

**Sampling by:**

DFO, MDNR, ODNR,  
OMNRF, & USFWS



### 2016 Core Fish Community Assessments (1,219 sites)

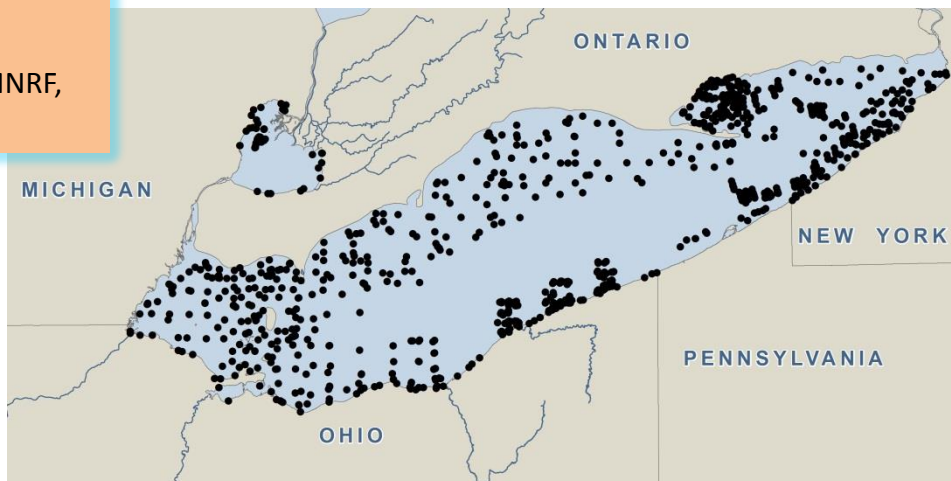
*No Big or Silver Carp collected*

**Standard Gears:**

electrofishing, gill nets, trawls,  
seines, and trap nets

**Sampling by:**

MDNR, NYSDEC, ODNR, OMNRF,  
PFBC, & USGS



**Effort of major fisheries monitored by LEC jurisdictions in the three basins of Lake Erie during 2016. *No Bighead or Silver carps reported* \***

Fishery (units of effort)	West Basin	Central Basin	East Basin
Ontario Percid Commercial Gillnet (kms)	<b>13,501</b>	<b>27,612</b>	<b>2,763</b>
U.S. Commercial Trap Net (lifts)	<b>6,154</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>852</b>
U.S. Percid Recreational (angler hours)	<b>2,825,844</b>	<b>1,279,633</b>	<b>398,176</b>

\* Neither species of carp was reported from other monitored fisheries in the Lake Erie system during 2016, including commercial hoop net, pound net, seine, and trawl fisheries, as well as non-Percid recreational fisheries.

**Who serves on the Lake Erie Committee (LEC) and what is their purpose?** *Fisheries managers from Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario, and Pennsylvania coordinate priorities in the Lake Erie system (Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and St. Clair/Detroit Rivers).*

**How serious is the threat of Asian carps to Lake Erie fisheries?** *Bi-national studies clearly identify the Lake Erie system as having the highest risk of Asian carp establishment and biological impact of any Great Lake.*

**What is the LEC doing about the potential Asian carp threat to Lake Erie fisheries?** *The priority is to prevent bighead and silver carp population establishment in the Lake Erie system by focusing on the identification and elimination of outside sources of carps and their pathways of entry, through early surveillance and application of effective control programs where feasible.*

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Bighead & Silver Carp History in Lake Erie**

Individual adult Bighead Carp have been captured by commercial fishers : in Sandusky Bay, OH (1995) and near Point Pelee , ON and Cedar Point, OH (2000)

**2011:** Notre Dame tests eDNA samples

- Bighead Carp, 4 '+' in 200 samples, Sandusky Bay (OH)
- Silver Carp, 2 '+' in 200 samples, Maumee Bay (MI/OH)
- 0 '+' in 50 samples, Lorain Harbor (OH)

**2012:** USACE tests eDNA samples

- Silver Carp, 20 '+' in 150 samples, Sandusky Bay & River
- Silver Carp, 3 '+' in 350 samples, Maumee Bay & River
- no Bighead Carp eDNA in either river

**2013:** eDNA testing by USFWS and DFO

- 817 samples, lakewide
- Silver carp, 1 '+' in 207 samples, Maumee River

**2014:** eDNA testing by USFWS and OMNRF

- 1,457 sites, lakewide
- Silver Carp, 1 '+' in 18 samples Ausable River (L.Huron)
- Bighead Carp, 1 '+' in 30 samples Canard River ; 2 '+' in 129 samples , Grand River , ON.

**2015:** eDNA testing by USFWS and OMNRF

- 1,997 sites, lakewide
- Silver Carp 2 '+' in 54 samples, in the Thames R.; 1 '+' in 42 samples, at Colchester Harbour
- Bighead Carp, 1 '+' in 42samples at Colchester Harbour

<sup>1</sup>Some of the positive eDNA signals, have proven difficult to replicate and/or have possible sources of contamination; e.g. 2016 "+" in only 1/3 replicates, collected close to Water Pollution Control Plant outflow. Regardless, No Bighead or Silver Carps have been found in follow up assessment, or in targeted or core fish assessment programs in the Lake Erie system.

**Great Lakes Fishery Commission**  
**Lake Erie Committee**

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